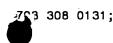
3. (amended)



said body having an outer surface with a pair of opposite cylindrical portions extending along substantially the entire length of said body and defining said first diameter, and a pair of substantially flat opposite side walls connected between said opposite cylindrical portions, said side walls extending along a substantial portion of said length of said body; and

external threads defined on said pair of opposite cylindrical portions of said outer surface and extending along substantially the entire length of said body.

- 2. (amended) The fusion device according to claim 1, wherein said [body is] cylindrical portions are tapered along a substantial portion of said length and [includes] define a second diameter at a second end thereof that is greater than said first diameter.
- said flat side walls terminate near said first end; and said cylindrical portions and said threads are interrupted by said side walls and are circumferentially continuous thereafter [at] from said said walls to said first end.

The fusion device of claim 1, wherein:

10. (amended) The fusion device according to claim 7 wherein said metal [is] includes a group VB metal [or an alloy of said group VB metal].